## What is Claimed is:

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1. A messaging system, comprising:

a client device having stored therein a client application, which is adapted to be executed by said client device;

a server having stored therein a server application, which is adapted to be
executed by said server;

a plurality of wireless networks, each of which is adapted to:

communicate messages between said client device and said server;

support one or more wireless network protocols;

a protocol gateway encapsulating a fundamental network protocol, which underlies each of said one or more wireless network protocols and includes a protocol stack that corresponds substantially to an Open System Interconnection (OSI) model and incorporates a simple network transport layer (SNTL); and

means for communicating a message between said client application and said server application, over a selected wireless network protocol through said protocol gateway, independent of said selected wireless network protocol.

- 2. The messaging system according to claim 1, wherein said SNTL maps to layer 4 of said OSI model.
- 3. The messaging system according to claim 1, wherein said protocol stack further comprises:

an application layer mapped to layer 7 of said OSI model; a network layer mapped to layer 3 of said OSI model; a data link layer mapped to layer 2 of said OSI model; and a physical layer mapped to layer 1 of said OSI model.

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- 4. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said application layer comprises means for providing an interface between a client application and said SNTL such that said client application is adapted to send and receive messages across said plurality of wireless networks without having any knowledge of a communication implementation.
- 5. The messaging system according to claim 4, wherein said client application is selected from the group consisting of one or more e-mail applications, one or more file transfer applications, and a plurality of end user applications.
- 6. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said network layer comprises means for providing network protocol layer functionality and hiding the details of said functionality from said SNTL.
- 7. The messaging system according to claim 6, wherein said network layer comprises an Internet Protocol (IP).
- 8. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are together adapted to comply with a public switch telephone network protocol.
- 9. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are together adapted to comply with a cellular digital packet data protocol.
- 10. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are together adapted to comply with a Mobitex protocol.
- 11. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are together adapted to comply with a RIM protocol.

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- 12. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are together adapted to comply with an ARDIS protocol.
- 13. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are adapted to comply with a GPRS protocol.
- 14. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are adapted to comply with a GSM protocol.
- 15. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are adapted to comply with said selected wireless network protocol.
- 16. The messaging system according to claim 3, wherein said data link layer and said physical layer are adapted to comply with a wireless network protocol selected from the group consisting of a public switch telephone network protocol, a cellular digital packet data protocol, a Mobitex protocol, an ARDIS protocol, a RIM protocol, a GPRS protocol, and a GSM protocol.
- 17. The messaging system according to claim 1, wherein said SNTL includes a connectionless UDP-like transport protocol having substantially all of the features and advantages of TCP.
- 18. The messaging system according to claim 17, wherein said features are selected from the group consisting of message segmentation, message segment reassembly, message retries, and message duplication.
- 19. The messaging system according to claim 17, wherein said SNTL includes a transport header having a preselected width.
- 20. The messaging system according to claim 19, wherein said preselected width comprises about four to six bytes.

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- 21. The messaging system according to claim 19, comprises a single segment message header.
- 22. The messaging system according to claim 19, comprises a multiple segment message header.
- 23. The messaging system according to claim 19, wherein said transport header further comprises:

a first field adapted to indicate a version number of a segment header;

a second field adapted to indicate a message identification value, which is

adapted to discard segment/message duplications and to match acknowledgments with messages;

a third field adapted to indicate protocol information;

a fourth field adapted to indicate a total number of bytes contained in a message segment to be sent including said segment header; and

a fifth field adapted to indicate a number of each said message segment.

- 24. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said first field comprises two bits.
- 25. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said first field comprises bit 0 and bit 1 of a first word in said segment header.
- 26. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said first field comprises a value of from 0 to 3.
- 27. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said second field comprises thirteen bits.
- 28. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said second field comprises bits 2 through 14 of a first word in said segment header.

- 29. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said second field comprises a value of from 0 to 8,192.
- 30. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said third field comprises five bits.
- 31. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said third field comprises bits 15 through 19 of a first word in said segment header.
- 32. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein bit 19 of said third field comprises a value indicative of message segmentation.
- 33. The messaging system according to claim 32, wherein bit 19 comprises a value of 0 where the message is not segmented.
- 34. The messaging system according to claim 32, wherein bit 19 comprises a value of 1 where the message is segmented.
- 35. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein bit 16 of said third field comprises a value indicative of a message type.
- 36. The messaging system according to claim 35, wherein bit 16 comprises a value of 0 where the message includes a positive acknowledgment.
- 37. The messaging system according to claim 35, wherein bit 16 comprises a value of 1 where the message includes a negative acknowledgment.
- 38. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein bit 15 of said third field comprises a message indicator.
- 39. The messaging system according to claim 38, wherein bit 15 comprises a value of 0 where the message is an application message.

- 40. The messaging system according to claim 38, wherein bit 15 comprises a value of 1 where the message is a system message.
- 41. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said fourth field comprises twelve bits.
- 42. The messaging system according to claim 41, wherein said fourth field comprises bits 20 through 31 of a second word in said segment header.
- 43. The messaging system according to claim 42, wherein said fourth field comprises a value of from 4 to 4,096.
- 44. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said fifth field comprises eight bits.
- 45. The messaging system according to claim 44, wherein said fifth field comprises bits 0 through 7 of a third word in said segment header.
- 46. The messaging system according to claim 44, wherein said fifth field comprises a value of from 2 to 255.
- 47. The messaging system according to claim 23, wherein said fifth field is adapted to re-order a plurality of message segments into a single complete message.

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